



HERE IS THE GATEWAY TO OTHER WORLDS... WEIRD WONDERS!



JAN.
NO. 40
10c



STRANGE ADVENTURES

ONE MORE JOLT OF
MY EVOLUTION RAY, CAPTAIN COMET,
AND YOU'LL BE A GIANT, BODILESS
BRAIN... *JUST LIKE ME!*

WE DARE YOU
TO GUESS THE
SHOCKING
SECRET OF...

*"The
MIND
MONSTER!"*

LEAVE IT TO **Binky**

"HOME, SWEET HOME!"



HIYA, LUCY! GOSH, THAT'S SWEET OF YOU SETTING OUT THOSE COOKIES FOR MY PARTY TONIGHT.

YOUR PARTY? THESE ARE FOR THE MEMBERS OF MY SCHOOL CLUB WHO ARE MEETING HERE TONIGHT.



WHAT? BUT I SPOKE TO MOTHER LAST WEEK ABOUT HAVING MY CROWD OVER TONIGHT, AND SHE SAID IT WAS OKAY!

I'M SORRY, BINKY, BUT MOTHER MUST HAVE FORGOTTEN ABOUT MY MEETING. YOU'LL HAVE TO CALL YOUR PARTY OFF!


OH-OH! THERE'S GONNA BE FIREWORKS ANY MINUTE!

MOM! POP!



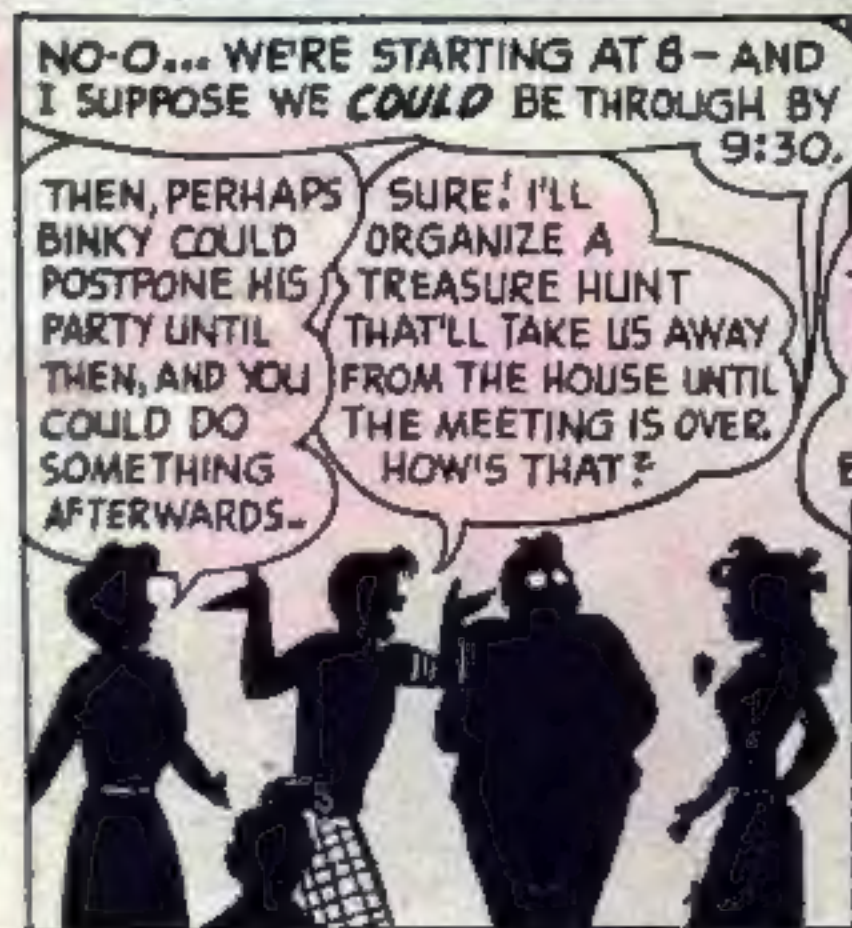
NOW, WAIT A MINUTE, CHILDREN, BEFORE YOU START ANY FURTHER BICKERING. LET'S DISCUSS THIS SENSIBLY, SAME AS YOU DO AT YOUR STUDENT COUNCIL MEETINGS.

YES, AND AT HOME, TOO. FATHER AND I DISCUSS FAMILY MATTERS WITH YOU, DON'T WE?



WELL, I DON'T SEE ANY WAY OUT.

LET'S TRY... DOES YOUR MEETING HAVE TO TAKE UP THE WHOLE EVENING?



NO-O... WE'RE STARTING AT 8- AND I SUPPOSE WE **COULD** BE THROUGH BY 9:30.

THEN, PERHAPS BINKY COULD POSTPONE HIS PARTY UNTIL THEN, AND YOU COULD DO SOMETHING AFTERWARDS..

SURE! I'LL ORGANIZE A TREASURE HUNT THAT'LL TAKE US AWAY FROM THE HOUSE UNTIL THE MEETING IS OVER. HOW'S THAT?



THAT'S OKAY WITH ME! WE'LL GO ROLLER-SKATING AFTER OUR MEETING.

PERFECT! THEN NOBODY WILL BE IN THE WAY OF YOUR GROUP, LUCY-- AND BINKY'S CROWD CAN TAKE OVER AFTERWARDS! I HAVE ENOUGH COOKIES FOR EVERYBODY!



THAT'S THE SPIRIT! IT'S WONDERFUL WHAT A LITTLE DISCUSSION WILL DO!

NOW I CAN HAVE SOME PEACE AROUND HERE! I'M ALL FOR MORE DEMOCRACY AT HOME!

CAPTAIN COMET



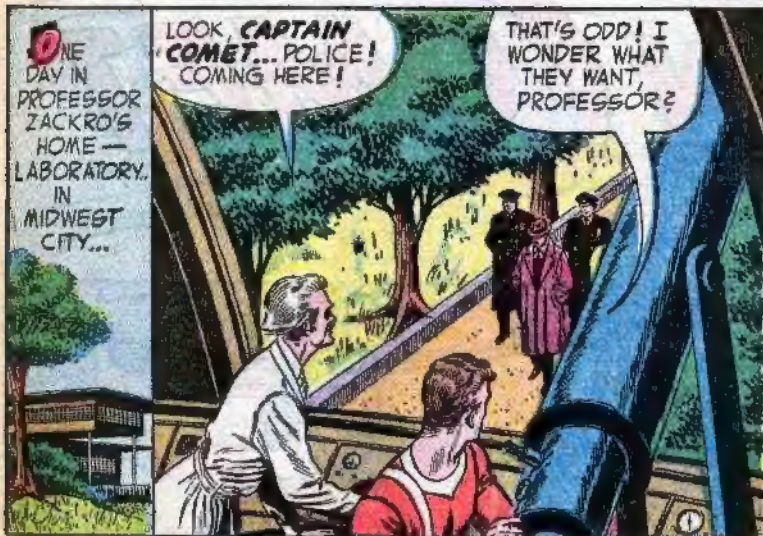
WHO WAS THE MYSTERIOUS, BEAUTIFUL GIRL WITH THE EXTRAORDINARY POWERS WHO WAS WANTED BY THE POLICE? AND WHAT CONNECTION WAS THERE BETWEEN HER AND THE **SUPER-NOVA**--EXPLODING STAR--JUST RECENTLY DISCOVERED BY PROFESSOR ZACKRO? WITH THE FATE OF EARTH HANGING IN THE BALANCE, MIGHTY **CAPTAIN COMET** HAD TO LEARN THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS IN ORDER TO COME TO GRIPS WITH...

THE MIND MONSTER

STRANGE ADVENTURES, No. 40, January, 1954 issue. Published monthly by National Comics Publications, Inc., 480 Lexington Ave., New York 17, N. Y. Whitney Ellsworth, Editor. Entered as second class matter Dec. 28, 1950 at the Post Office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Yearly subscription in the U. S. \$1.50 including postage. Foreign \$3.00 in American funds. For advertising rates address Richard A.

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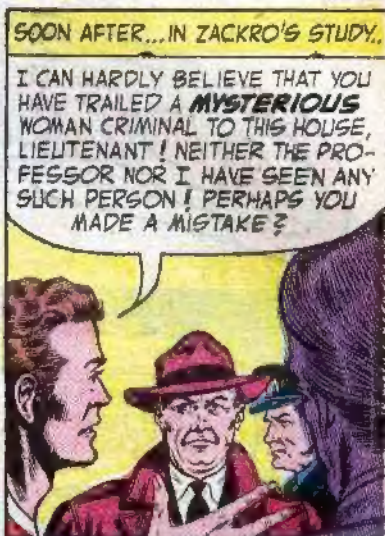
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ONE DAY IN PROFESSOR ZACKRO'S HOME — LABORATORY. IN MIDWEST CITY...

LOOK, **CAPTAIN COMET**... POLICE! COMING HERE!

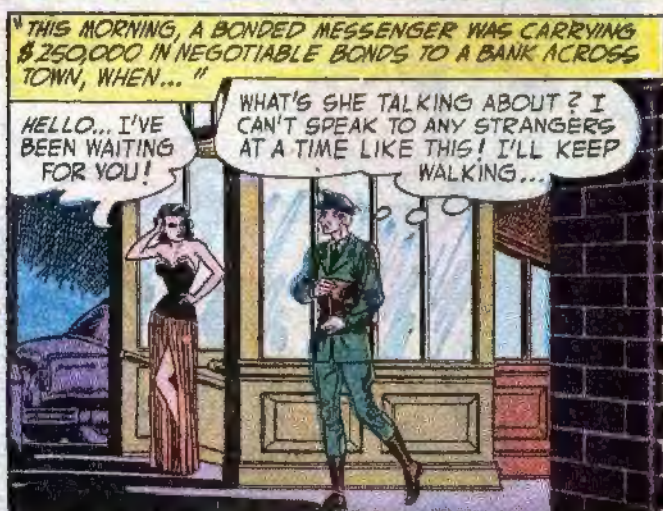
THAT'S ODD! I WONDER WHAT THEY WANT, PROFESSOR?



SOON AFTER...IN ZACKRO'S STUDY...
I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE TRAILED A **MYSTERIOUS** WOMAN CRIMINAL TO THIS HOUSE, LIEUTENANT! NEITHER THE PROFESSOR NOR I HAVE SEEN ANY SUCH PERSON! PERHAPS YOU MADE A MISTAKE?



THERE'S NO DOUBT SHE CAME HERE, **CAPTAIN COMET**! BUT THERE ARE SEVERAL OTHER **UNUSUAL** ANGLES TO THIS CASE THAT I THINK YOU'D BETTER KNOW! WE CAN'T SOLVE THEM -- PERHAPS **YOU** CAN HELP US!



"THIS MORNING, A BONDED MESSENGER WAS CARRYING \$250,000 IN NEGOTIABLE BONDS TO A BANK ACROSS TOWN, WHEN..."

HELLO... I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!

WHAT'S SHE TALKING ABOUT? I CAN'T SPEAK TO ANY STRANGERS AT A TIME LIKE THIS! I'LL KEEP WALKING...



"BUT THE MESSENGER FOUND THAT HIS FEET WERE ROOTED TO THE GROUND! HE COULDN'T MOVE--AS THE MYSTERY WOMAN TOOK HIS BRIEFCASE..."

PARALYZED! I--I CAN'T BUDGE! CAN'T EVEN CRY OUT! AND THAT THIEF IS GETTING AWAY WITH THE BONDS IN MY BRIEFCASE!



"WE FOUND THE MESSENGER AND FROM HIS DESCRIPTION TRAILED THE STRANGE WOMAN TO THIS NEIGHBORHOOD AND **THIS HOUSE**..."

DOCTORS HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO EXPLAIN THE QUEER PARALYSIS WHICH IS NOW GRADUALLY LEAVING THE MESSENGER! NOR HAVE THE POLICE BEEN ABLE TO EXPLAIN **HOW** THE THIEF COULD HAVE KNOWN ABOUT THE BONDS!



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LATER, AFTER THE POLICE HAVE SEARCHED THE GROUNDS IN VAIN... AND LEFT...

PROFESSOR, HAS IT STRUCK YOU THAT THE MYSTERY WOMAN APPEARED NOT MORE THAN **TWO HOURS** AFTER YOU SPIED THAT **NOVA**-- EXPLODING STAR--IN YOUR TELESCOPE LAST NIGHT?

THE NOVA? BUT CAPTAIN COMET--

--SURELY YOU DON'T THINK THERE COULD BE ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN THOSE TWO THINGS?

IT DOES SEEM FAR-FETCHED! BUT DON'T FORGET-- WE STILL HAVE NOT IDENTIFIED THE UNIQUE RADIATION FROM THAT NOVA...

STILL LATER, AFTER THE PROFESSOR HAS RETIRED, THE **MAN OF DESTINY** WORKS ON IN THE LABORATORY... ALONE...

THERE IT IS... THE NOVA! OF ALL COSMIC MYSTERIES, THAT IS ONE OF THE STRANGEST! A STAR EXPLODING--BURSTING TO PIECES! BUT THIS ONE IS PARTICULARLY STRANGE... WITH ITS STILL-UNKNOWN RADIATION...

AS CAPTAIN COMET TURNS FROM THE TELESCOPE, HIS EYE FALLS ON A TINY CREATURE ACROSS THE ROOM...

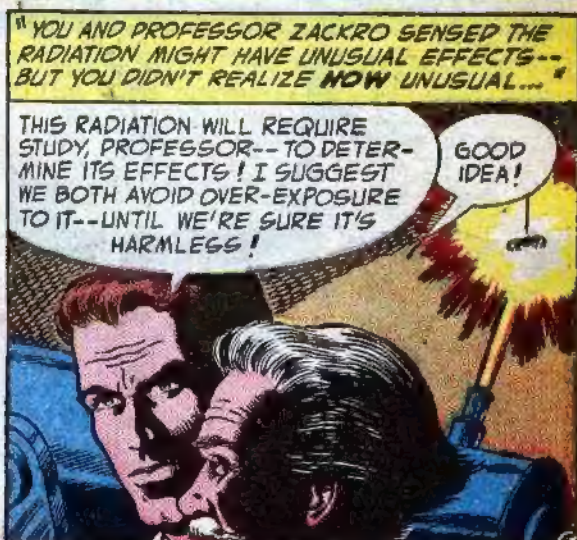
I DIDN'T NOTICE THAT SPIDER BEFORE! BUT I GUESS THIS PROVES THAT THE NOVA'S RAYS AREN'T LETHAL--OR THAT SPIDER WOULD HAVE BEEN DEAD BY NOW! ITS WEB IS RIGHT IN THE PATH OF THE RADIATION...

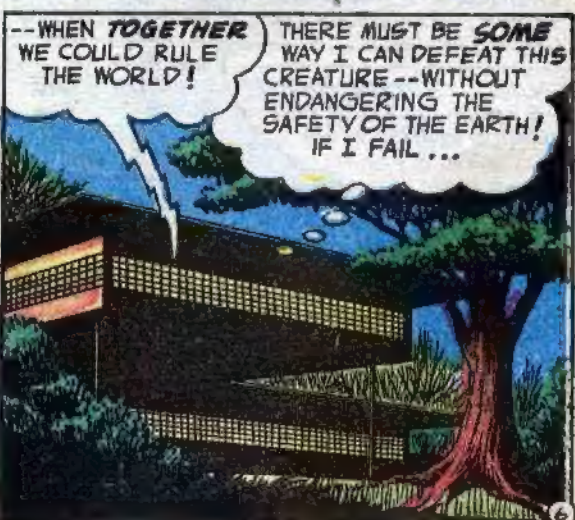
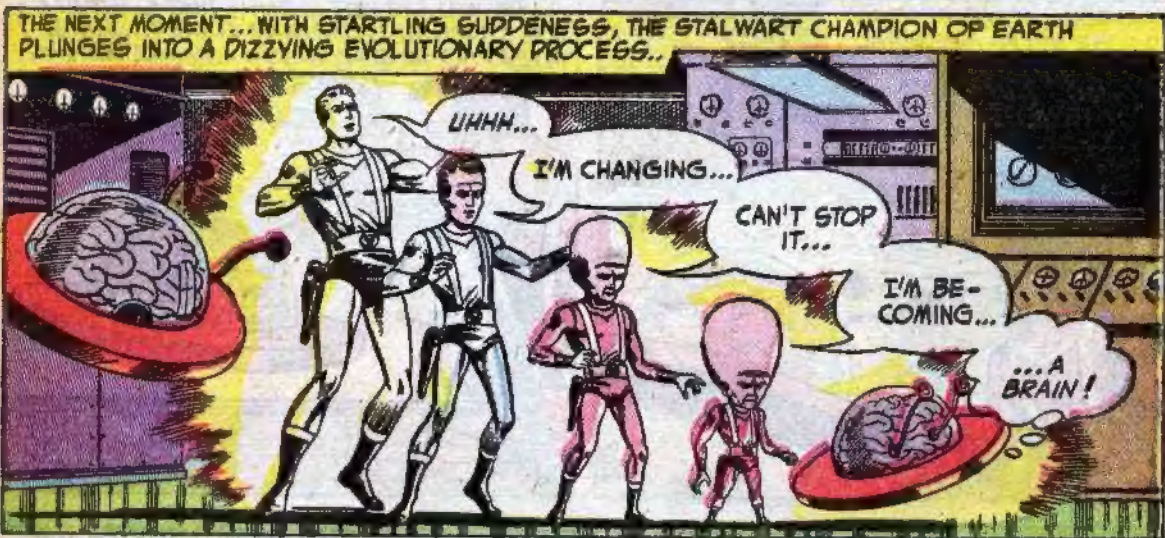
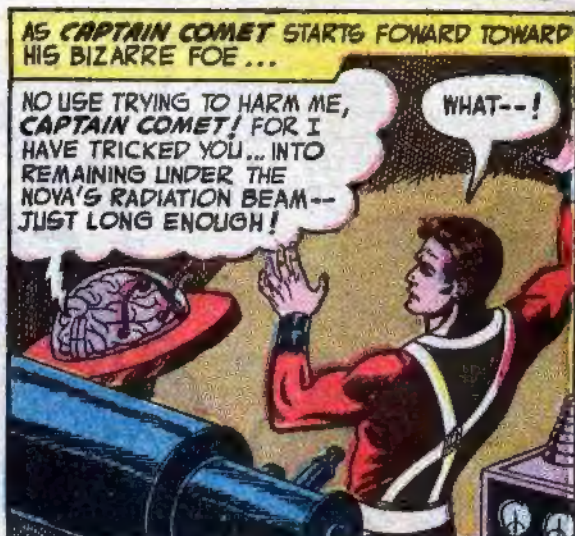
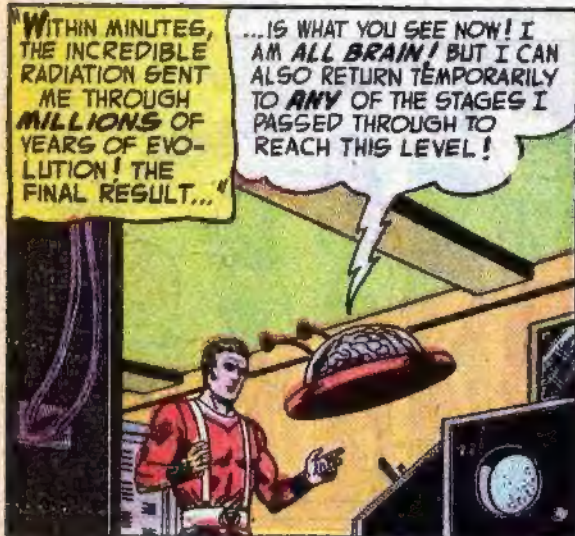
THIS IS JUST ABOUT THE HOUR THAT THE MYSTERY WOMAN THIEF APPEARED LAST NIGHT! AND I PROMISED THE POLICE TO TRY TO HELP THEM CATCH HER! I'LL GO INTO TOWN NOW... AND HAVE A LOOK AROUND...

OF COURSE IT'S RIDICULOUS TO SUPPOSE THAT SHE EVER ENTERED THIS HOUSE! THAT **MUST** BE A MISTAKE... HOW COULD SHE?

HA HA...









STRANGE ADVENTURES



PRETENDING TO CONSIDER THE OTHER BRAIN'S SUGGESTION, THE ALTERED CAPTAIN COMET STALLS FOR TIME...

YOU'VE SAID THAT WE CAN REGAIN ANY OF THE SHAPES WE PASSED THROUGH IN THE EVOLUTIONARY PROCESS--?

YES--MERELY BY **WILL-POWER!** WE CAN MENTALLY AFFECT OUR OWN ATOM-STRUCTURE! TRY IT--IT'S QUITE SIMPLE!



A MOMENT LATER... AS THE MAN OF DESTINY WILLS HIMSELF BACK TO HIS OWN SHAPE...

THERE! I... LIKE THIS FORM OF MINE BEST OF ALL! DON'T YOU, **CAPTAIN COMET?**

I MUST SAY... IT IS AN IMPROVEMENT!



DESPERATELY, THE FUTURISTIC CHAMPION OF EARTH SEEKS FOR A WAY OUT OF HIS DILEMMA...

I NEED SOME TIME ALONE... TO FIGURE A WAY OF DEALING WITH THIS CREATURE! GOT TO GET RID OF HER FOR A WHILE--AND I THINK I KNOW JUST THE DEVICE THAT WILL DO IT!



I--ER--THINK YOU'D LOOK EVEN BETTER IF YOU WENT SHOPPING FOR SOME EXPENSIVE NEW DRESSES!

WOULD THAT MAKE YOU LIKE ME MORE, **CAPTAIN COMET?**



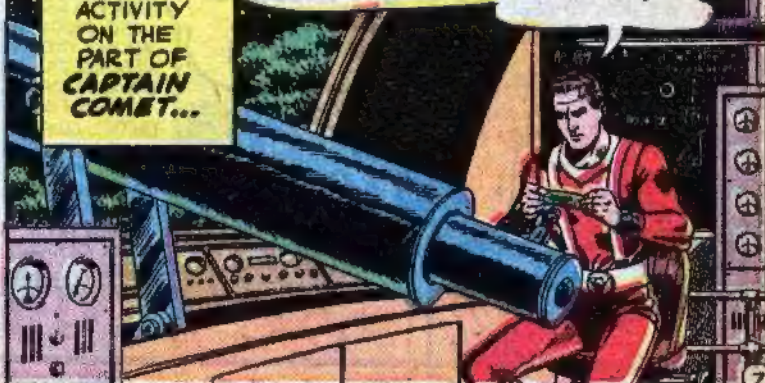
GETTING AN AFFIRMATIVE ANSWER, THE STRANGE CREATURE AT ONCE DISAPPEARS...

SPIDER... WOMAN... OR BRAIN... SHE'S ALL FEMALE! AND I KNEW NO FEMALE COULD RESIST THE TEMPTATION TO MAKE HERSELF MORE BEAUTIFUL! BUT NOW I MUST USE THE NEXT COUPLE OF HOURS IN INTENSIVE CONCENTRATION!



TWO HOURS LATER, AFTER A FURIOUS BURST OF MENTAL ACTIVITY ON THE PART OF CAPTAIN COMET...

I THINK I HAVE IT! IF MY CALCULATIONS ARE CORRECT, THIS STRIP OF POLAROID FILM WILL SPLIT UP THE INCOMING LIGHT FROM THAT NOVA--AND REVERSE ITS EXTRAORDINARY EFFECT!





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SOON AFTER...

HOW DO YOU LIKE ME NOW?

HOW BEAUTIFUL SHE IS -- AND HOW EVIL! SHE'S RECEIVING THE FULL EFFECT OF THE POLAROID-REVERSED RAY NOW! ANY MOMENT...

SUDDENLY...

I HAD TO -- FOR THE SAFETY OF THE EARTH!

YOU... TRICKED ME, **CAPTAIN COMET**!

THE END PRODUCT-- AS THE MAN OF DESTINY FORESAW-- IS THE SPIDER ITSELF...

THERE! THIS CHANGE IS **PERMANENT!** FROM A POTENTIAL RULER OF THE WORLD-- TO A TINY, ABJECT SPIDER-- IN ONE BRIEF EVENING! WHAT IRONY-- AND WHO WOULD BELIEVE IT? I GUESS I MIGHT AS WELL KEEP THIS STORY TO MYSELF...

THE NEXT MORNING... WHEN PROFESSOR ZACKRO ENTERS THE LAB...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, **CAPTAIN COMET**?

JUST PUTTING A **MALE SPIDER** IN WITH THIS FEMALE, PROFESSOR! I--ER-- HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THE FEMALE IS LONELY!

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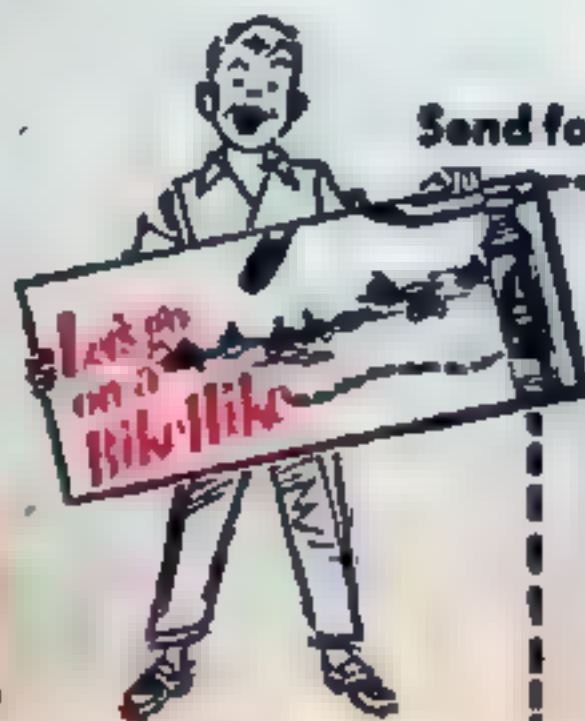


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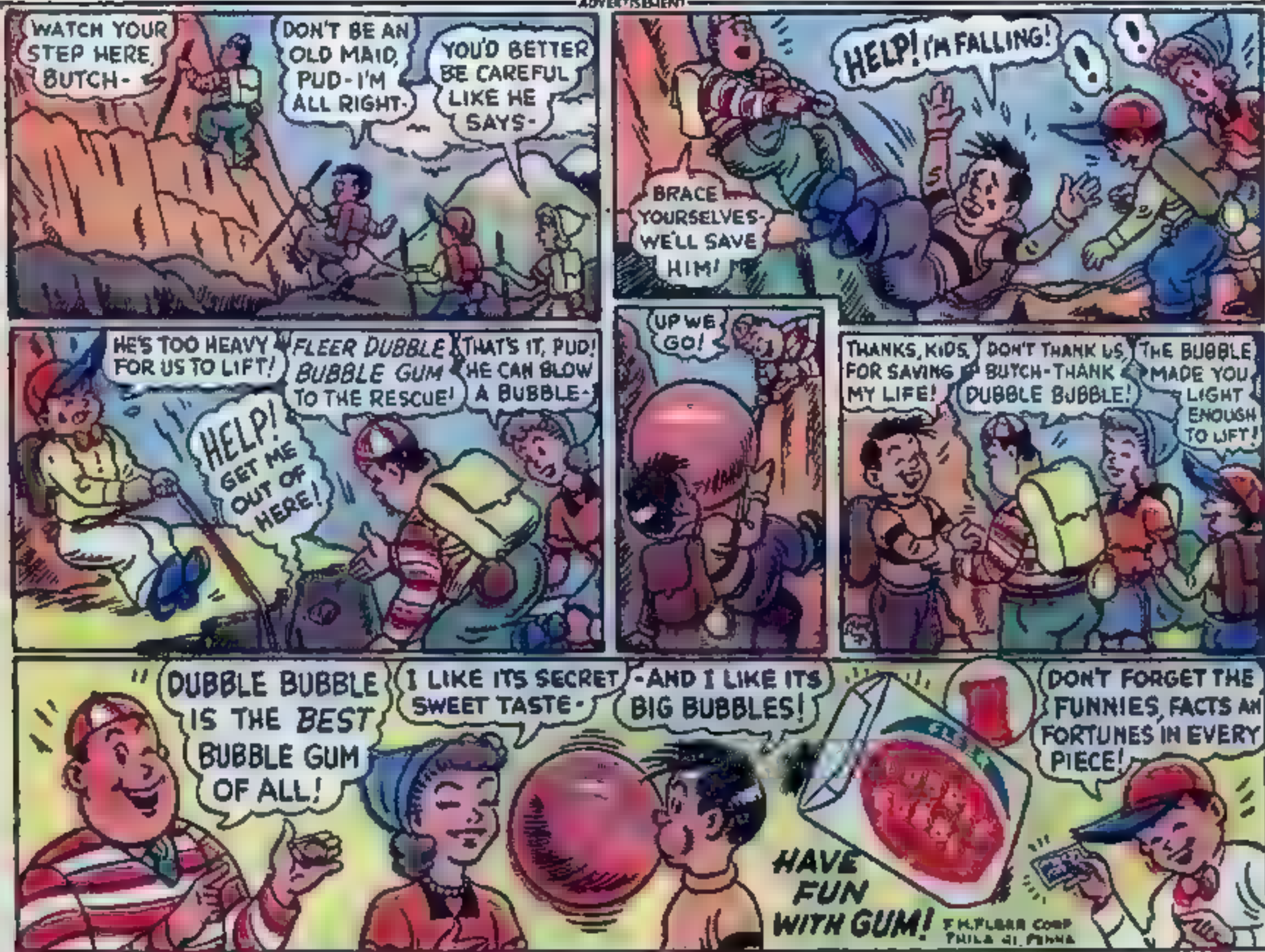


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FROM ETERNITY TO HERE!

HISTORIANS OFTEN LIKE TO SPECULATE WHAT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED IF CERTAIN CRITICAL EVENTS OF THE PAST HAD GONE ANOTHER WAY! HOW WOULD THE FUTURE HAVE BEEN CHANGED IF COLUMBUS HAD FAILED TO DISCOVER AMERICA... IF BOOTH HAD MISSED LINCOLN... IF GERMANY HAD WON WORLD WAR I? THIS IS THE STORY OF A CURRENT EVENT... AND HOW A MAN ONE THOUSAND YEARS FROM NOW TRIED TO CHANGE PRESENT DAY HISTORY FOR HIS FUTURE BENEFIT!



WHY DO YOU WANT TO KILL ME? I NEVER DID YOU ANY HARM!

YOU WILL IF YOU LIVE! BUT BY KILLING YOU NOW... IN 1954... I WILL DESTROY MY GREATEST ENEMY... 1,000 YEARS IN THE FUTURE!

ON A CONEY ISLAND BOARDWALK, IN THE YEAR 1954...

GUESS I'LL HAVE MY PICTURE TAKEN WHILE I WAIT FOR MY SIGHT-SEEING CUSTOMERS TO SHOW UP!



MINUTES LATER...

THE PHOTO IS PROTECTED BY PLASTIC, HAL! IT WILL LAST FOR TEN CENTURIES!

AW, WHO WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ME A THOUSAND YEARS FROM NOW?





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WHO WOULD BE INTERESTED? YOU'D BE SURPRISED, HAL NELSON! FOR, IN A SECRET HIDEOUT IN THE CENTER OF NY YORK, IN THE YEAR 1954...

AS YOU SEE, GENERAL KORE, OUR REBEL ARMY WAS DESTROYED BY THE INVENTION OF DR. NELSON... THE DISINTEGRATOR RAY!



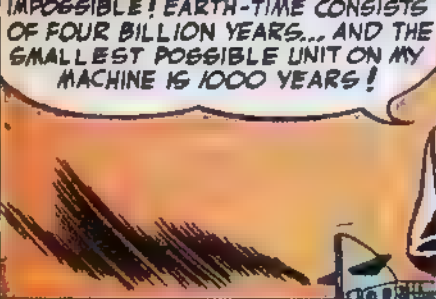
IF IT WEREN'T FOR HIS INVENTION, WE WOULD HAVE DEFEATED THE GOVERNMENT FORCES AND I WOULD BE DICTATOR OF EARTH INSTEAD OF A HUNTED FUGITIVE!

BUT WE CAN STILL TURN DEFEAT INTO VICTORY... WITH MY TIME MACHINE!

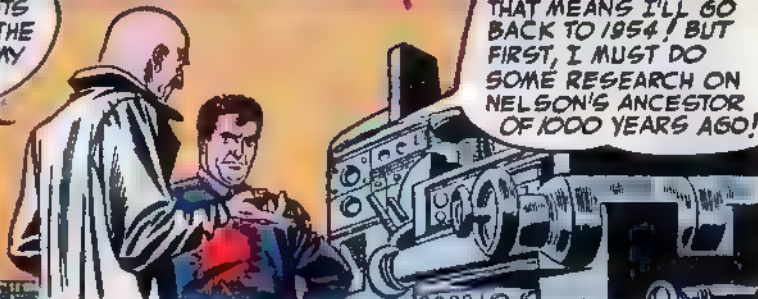


YOU MEAN SEND-ING ME INTO THE PAST TO KILL ONE OF DR. NELSON'S ANCESTORS... THUS ERADICATING NELSON AND HIS INVENTION FROM OUR TIME! ALL RIGHT-- SEND ME BACK 50 YEARS AND I'LL KILL NELSON'S FATHER!

IMPOSSIBLE! EARTH-TIME CONSISTS OF FOUR BILLION YEARS... AND THE SMALLEST POSSIBLE UNIT ON MY MACHINE IS 1000 YEARS!



THAT MEANS I'LL GO BACK TO 1954! BUT FIRST, I MUST DO SOME RESEARCH ON NELSON'S ANCESTOR OF 1000 YEARS AGO!



SOON AFTER, GENERAL KORE IS READY FOR HIS TRIP INTO THE PAST...

YOU WILL IDENTIFY DR. NELSON'S 1954 ANCESTOR BY THIS PHOTO-GRAPH WE FOUND!

THIS "TOPCOAT" I'M WEARING IS SIMILAR TO THOSE WORN IN THAT ERA... ONLY IT IS AN **ELECTRIC SHIELD** AND WILL PROTECT ME FROM ANY FORCE USED AGAINST ME!

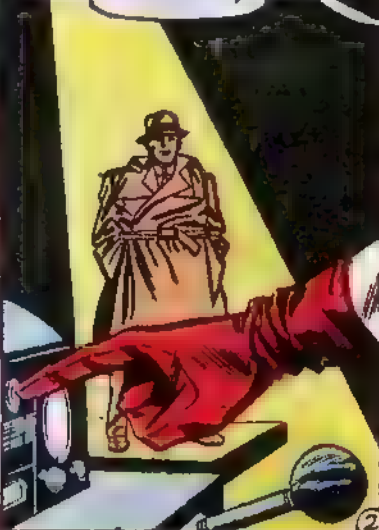


REMEMBER... THE TIME RAYS WILL DEPOSIT YOU AND PICK YOU UP IN THE FUN HOUSE WHICH HAL NELSON OWNS! BUT YOU CANNOT RETURN HERE FOR FOUR HOURS! IT TAKES THAT LONG TO RECHARGE THE TIME BATTERIES!



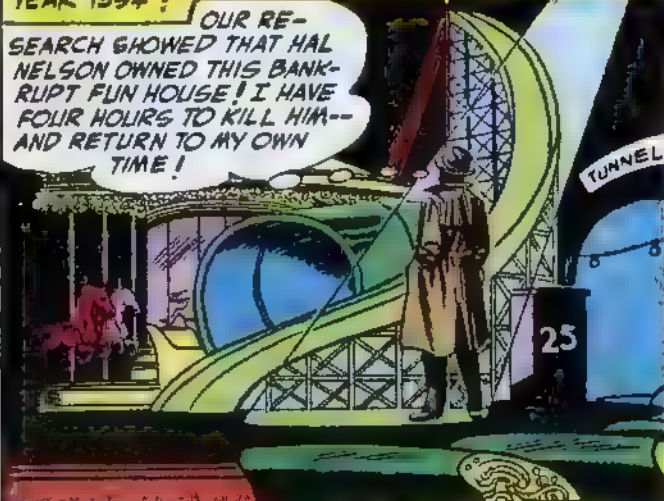
AS DR. VOSS PASSES THE FINAL BUTTON THERE IS A BURST OF LIGHT AND...

THE INSTANT DR. NELSON DISAPPEARS WILL BE THE SIGNAL YOU HAVE SUCCEEDED IN YOUR MISSION!



THE RAYS OF THE TIME MACHINE TRANSPORT GENERAL KORE BACK...BACK...BACK IN TIME--1000 YEARS TO ITS DESTINATION--NELSON'S FUN HOUSE--IN THE YEAR 1954!

OUR RE-SEARCH SHOWED THAT HAL NELSON OWNED THIS BANKRUPT FUN HOUSE! I HAVE FOUR HOURS TO KILL HIM--AND RETURN TO MY OWN TIME!



AS THE TIME AGGASSIN STEPS OUT INTO THE DAYLIGHT OF 1954, HE SEES HIS PROSPECTIVE VICTIM...

HURRY! HURRY! ONE DOLLAR TAKES YOU ON A FOUR-HOUR TRIP AROUND NEW YORK!

I COULD KILL HIM IMMEDIATELY... BUT THE LAW OFFICIALS HERE MIGHT IMPRISON ME, STRANDING ME IN 1954! I MUST LURE HIM TO THE FUN HOUSE AND KILL HIM THERE!



YESSIR? WANT TO TAKE A TOUR?

ER--NO! I UNDERSTAND YOU OWN THE FUN HOUSE! I'D LIKE TO BUY IT! WILL YOU SHOW ME THROUGH IT?



I CAN'T--NOW! I MUST MAKE MY SIGHT-SEEING TOUR FIRST!

SHOW ME AROUND THE FUN HOUSE NOW AND I'LL GIVE YOU ONE HUNDRED WHETHER I BUY IT OR NOT!



100 CREDITS! WHAT IS THIS... A GAG? THIS ISN'T MONEY!

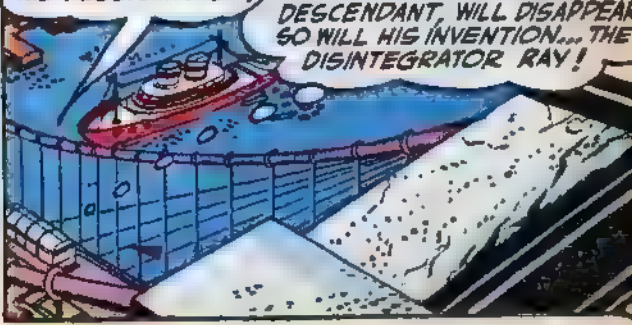
BLAST VOSS... HE GAVE ME THE WRONG MONEY! WELL, I STILL HAVE ALMOST FOUR HOURS LEFT...



MOMENTS LATER, THE SIGHT-SEEING TOUR STARTS--CARRYING BOTH PROSPECTIVE MURDERER AND VICTIM!

THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE, FIRST OPENED TO THE PUBLIC IN 1883!

WHEN NELSON DIES IN FOUR HOURS, HE WILL NEVER HAVE A SON... AND WARREN NELSON, HIS ONE THOUSAND-YEAR DESCENDANT, WILL DISAPPEAR. SO WILL HIS INVENTION... THE DISINTEGRATOR RAY!





STRANGE ADVENTURES



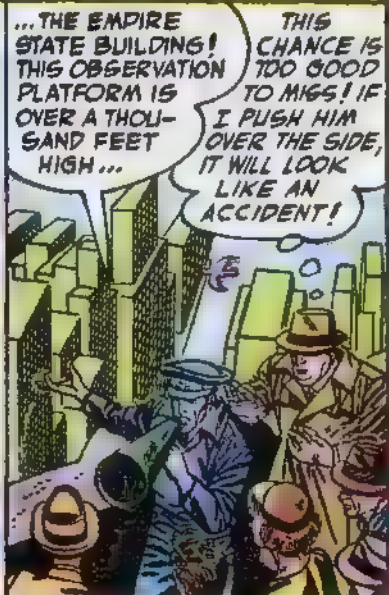
GENERAL KORE, CONSCIOUS OF HIS FOUR-HOUR DEADLINE, WAITS IMPATIENTLY WHILE HAL NELSON SHOWS HIS PASSENGERS THE SIGHTS OF A GREAT CITY...



--THE STATUE OF LIBERTY, PRESENTED BY THE PEOPLE OF FRANCE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES--

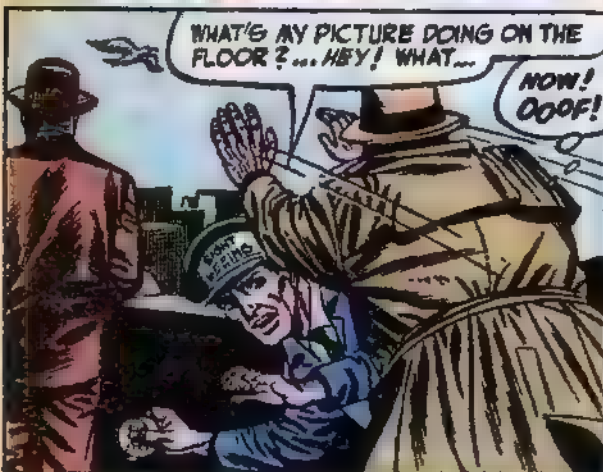


--GRANT'S TOMB... WHERE THE HERO OF THE CIVIL WAR IS BURIED--



...THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING! THIS OBSERVATION PLATFORM IS OVER A THOUSAND FEET HIGH...

THIS CHANCE IS TOO GOOD TO MISS! IF I PUSH HIM OVER THE SIDE, IT WILL LOOK LIKE AN ACCIDENT!



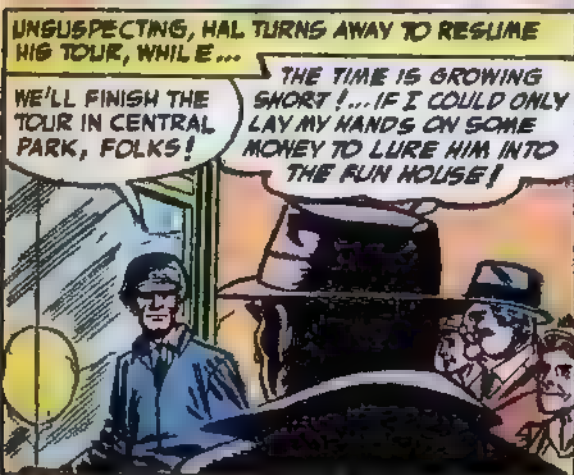
WHAT'S MY PICTURE DOING ON THE FLOOR? ...HEY! WHAT...

NOW! OOF!



WHAT'S THE IDEA? YOU ALMOST KILLED ME!

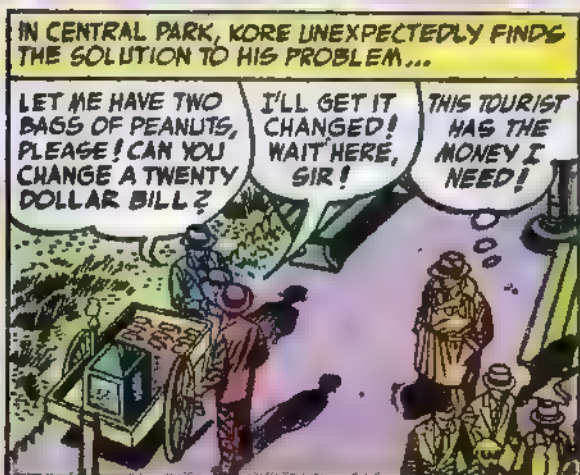
SORRY--IT WAS AN ACCIDENT! I WAS ONLY TRYING TO CATCH THAT BIRD!



UN SUSPECTING, HAL TURNS AWAY TO RESUME HIS TOUR, WHILE...

WE'LL FINISH THE TOUR IN CENTRAL PARK, FOLKS!

THE TIME IS GROWING SHORT! ...IF I COULD ONLY LAY MY HANDS ON SOME MONEY TO LURE HIM INTO THE RUN HOUSE!



LET ME HAVE TWO BAGS OF PEANUTS, PLEASE! CAN YOU CHANGE A TWENTY DOLLAR BILL?

I'LL GET IT CHANGED! WAIT HERE, SIR!

THIS TOURIST HAS THE MONEY I NEED!

WAITING UNTIL THE GROUP MOVES AWAY, KORE STRIKES...

THERE! NOW TO DRAG HIM BEHIND THE BUSHES, STEAL HIS MONEY AND REJOIN THE GROUP!

THUD!

TWO HUNDRED... TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY... GOOD! ENOUGH TO LURE NELSON INTO THE FUN HOUSE!

WONDER WHERE THAT GUY DISAPPEARED TO?

AND AS THE SIGHTSEEING TOUR DRAWS TO ITS CLOSE, BACK AT THE FUN HOUSE...

HENRY! HENRY! WHERE DID MY HUSBAND DISAPPEAR TO?

GOODBYE FOLKS! DON'T FORGET TO TELL YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT THIS TOUR!

MR. NELSON... CAN I SEE YOU NOW? I WANT TO TALK BUSINESS!

THERE... THAT \$360 DEPOSIT SHOWS I MEAN BUSINESS! NOW TAKE ME AROUND THE INSIDE OF THE FUN HOUSE!

ALL RIGHT, MISTER... COME ON!

INSIDE THE FUN HOUSE, KORE LEADS THE UNSUSPECTING ANCESTOR OF HIS ENEMY TO THE FOCUS FOR THE TIME MACHINE'S RAYS, WHERE...

HERE'S WHERE ALL THE CONTROLS FOR THE FUN GADGETS ARE! FOR INSTANCE, IF YOU WANT A BLAST OF AIR...

I MUST KILL HIM NOW! ONLY ONE MINUTE BEFORE DR. VOSS SENDS THE TIME RAYS FOR ME!

THE NEXT MOMENT...

YOU HAVE LESS THAN A MINUTE TO LIVE, HAL NELSON! YOU-- AND ALL YOUR DESCENDANTS WILL DISAPPEAR WHEN I PRESS THIS TRIGGER!

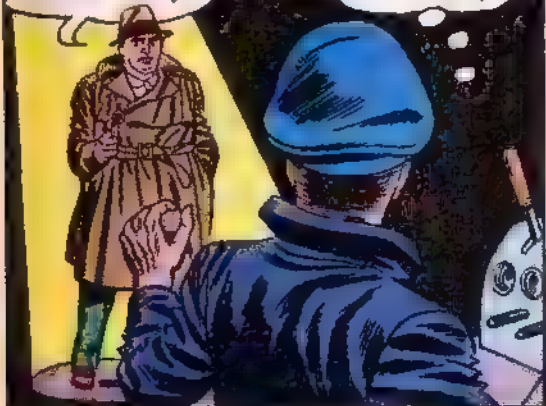


STRANGE ADVENTURES



YOU CAN DO NOTHING TO STOP ME! MY "TOPCOAT" WILL REPEL ANY FORCE USED AGAINST ME!

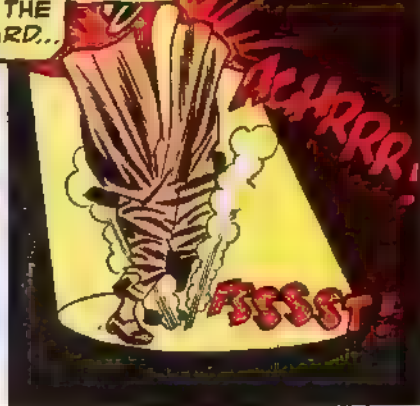
HE'S MAD! WHAT CAN I DO...? WAIT-- HE'S STANDING OVER A COMPRESSED AIR VENT!



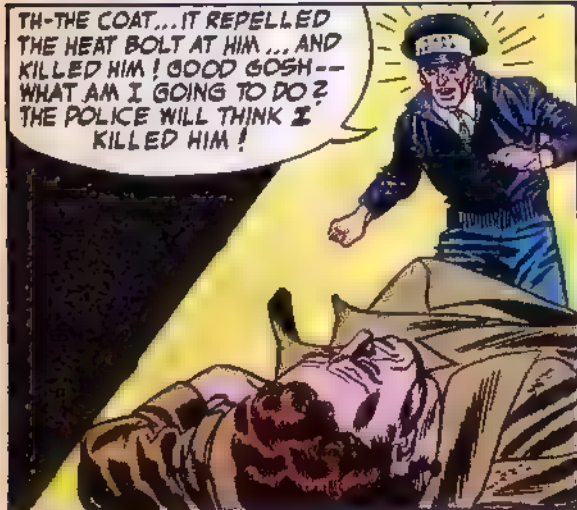
WITH EYE-BLURRING SPEED, HAL'S HAND FLASHES OUT... AND PRESSES A BUTTON ON THE CONTROL BOARD...



JUST AS KORE PRESSES THE TRIGGER OF HIS HEAT-RAY PISTOL, A JET OF AIR SHOOTS UP UNDER HIS "TOPCOAT" AND...

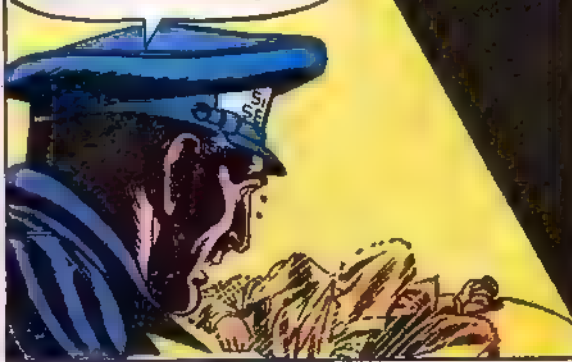


TH-THE COAT... IT REPELLED THE HEAT BOLT AT HIM... AND KILLED HIM! GOOD GOSH-- WHAT AM I GOING TO DO? THE POLICE WILL THINK I KILLED HIM!



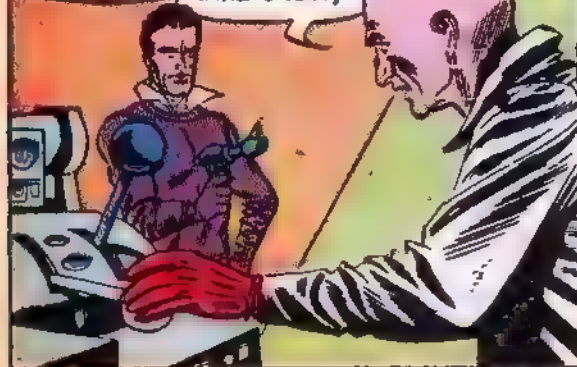
BUT JUST THEN, IMPELLED BY A FORCE ONE THOUSAND YEARS IN THE FUTURE, THE TIME RAYS SNATCH UP KORE'S BODY...

THE BODY... DISAPPEARING... BEFORE MY EYES!



AT THAT INSTANT IN THE LABORATORY OF DR. VOSS, IN THE YEAR 2954...

HA HA! IN ONE SECOND, DR. WARREN NELSON, YOU WILL DISAPPEAR! AND I WILL TAKE OVER!



BUT AS THE TIME TRAVELER'S BODY APPEARS...

GENERAL KORE... DEAD!

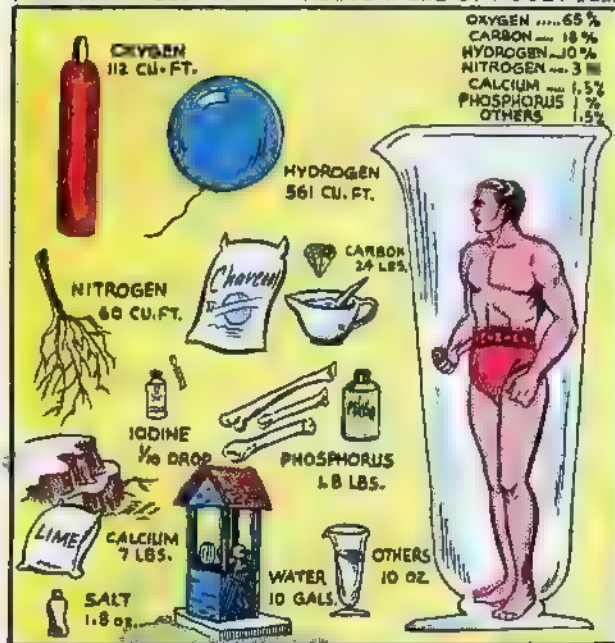
YOUR DIABOLICAL PLOT TO WIPE ME OUT OF EXISTENCE HAS FAILED, DR. VOSS... THANKS TO MY ANCESTOR WHO LIVED ONE THOUSAND YEARS AGO!



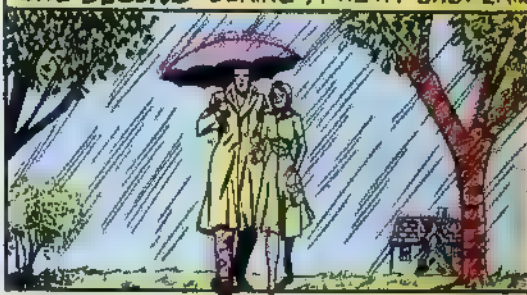
THE END

AMAZING Ratios!

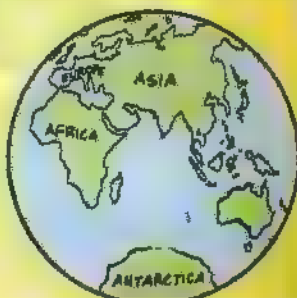
THE CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES OF WHICH OUR BODIES ARE COMPOSED HAVE A RETAIL VALUE OF ABOUT \$1...



THE **WEIGHT** OF **SUNSHINE** WHICH FALLS ON A SQUARE MILE OF EARTH IN **ONE CENTURY** IS LESS THAN THE **WEIGHT** OF **RAIN** WHICH FALLS IN A **FIFTIETH OF ONE SECOND** DURING A HEAVY SHOWER...



THE PROPORTION OF **MATTER** IN THE UNIVERSE TO THE AMOUNT OF **SPACE** IS AS ONE GRAIN OF SAND IN A HOLLOW SPHERE THE SIZE OF THE EARTH...



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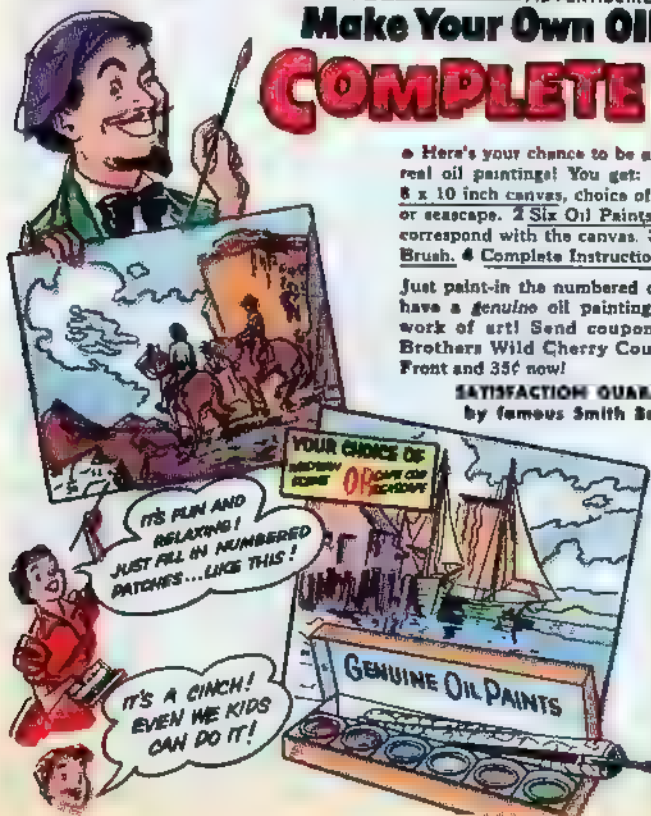
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CITY _____ ZONE _____ STATE _____

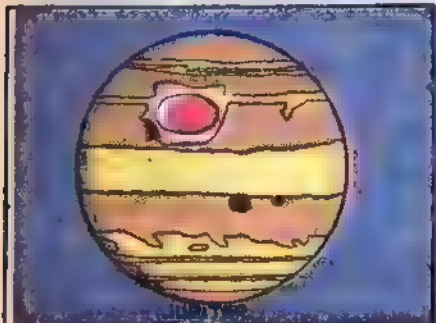


STRANGE ADVENTURES



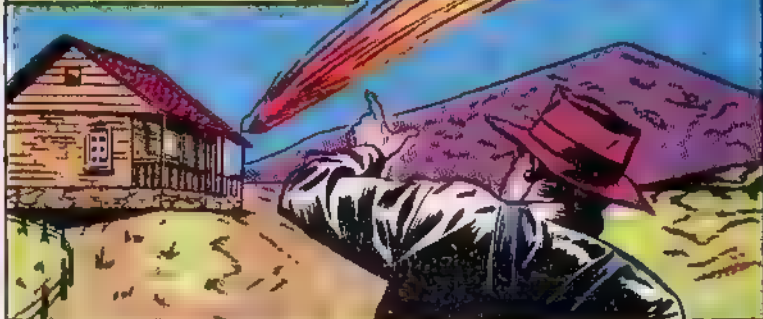
SCIENCE
says you're
WRONG
if you
BELIEVE
THAT

ANY PLANET LARGER THAN **JUPITER**
CAN EXIST IN THE UNIVERSE...



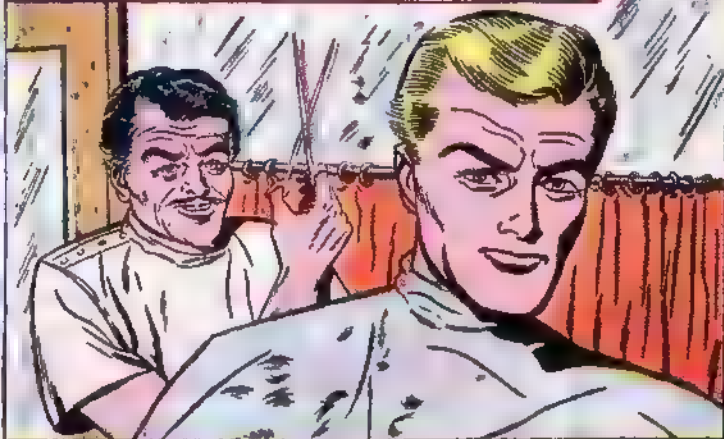
MODERN THEORY ABOUT THE
STRUCTURE OF MATTER INDICATES
THAT JUPITER HAS THE LARGEST
VOLUME OF ANY POSSIBLE "COLD"
BODY (A PLANET)--THAT IF IT
WERE ANY LARGER, IT WOULD BE
A **STAR**, POSSIBLY OF THE
WHITE DWARF TYPE.

A METEOR EVER FELL ON
A HUMAN BEING...



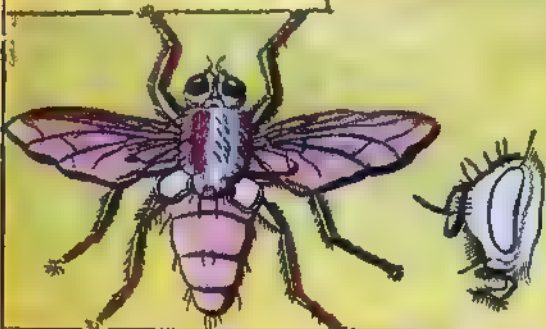
THERE IS NO RECORDED INSTANCE OF A METEOR EVER STRIKING
A HUMAN BEING ANYWHERE ON EARTH. ONE OF THE NARROWEST
ESCAPES OCCURRED IN SEPTEMBER, 1950, WHEN A METEOR FELL
THROUGH A FARMER'S PORCH ROOF IN WESTERN KENTUCKY.

HUMAN HAIR GROWS AT A STEADY RATE...



HEAD HAIR OF PEOPLE GROWS 80% OF THE TIME AND
REMAINS DORMANT THE OTHER 20%. BODY HAIR
GROWS HALF THE TIME AND RESTS THE OTHER HALF.

A FLY CAN SEE IN ALL DIRECTIONS
AT THE SAME TIME...



A FLY CANNOT SEE IN ALL DIRECTIONS AT
ONCE, BECAUSE PART OF ITS EYES MUST LIE
AGAINST ITS HEAD, AND IN THAT DIRECTION, AT
LEAST, IT CANNOT SEE. HOWEVER, IT CAN SEE IN
MORE DIRECTIONS THAN THE HUMAN EYE.

THE SALT CONTENT OF THE OCEANS
REMAINS CONSTANT...



ALONG THE COAST OF SPAIN NEAR CADIZ, ARE SHALLOW SALT
BASINS DUG OUT TO CATCH THE OCEAN WATER WHEN IT FLOODS
THE SHORE AT HIGH TIDE. STRONG RAYS OF THE SUN THEN EVAP-
ORATE THE WATER AND THE SALT IS LEFT BEHIND.

THE SALINITY INCREASES ONE-MILLIONTH OF
1% EACH CENTURY. IF CONDITIONS DO NOT CHANGE
IN THE FUTURE, ALL OCEANS WILL BE SATURATED
WITH SALTS (36%) IN 3½ BILLION YEARS.



OUT OF THE PACIFIC OCEAN
CAME ROARING JEZEBEL--
A STORM--WITH GATHERING
FURY, WHIPLASHING HER
CATASTROPHIC WAY ACROSS
OUR COAST!
AND OUT OF THE SKY CAME
ANOTHER MENACE--EQUALLY
SAVAGE, AND EQUALLY
INTENT ON DESTRUCTION--
OF ALL HUMANITY!

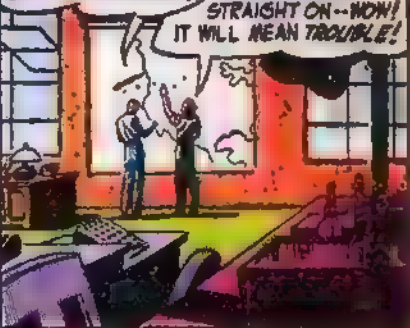
Earth's UNLUCKY DAY!

WHAT IS THIS
INCREDIBLE
WEAPON THAT
THE EARTHINGS
ARE HURLING
AT US?

IN A WESTERN SUBDIVISION OF THE U.S.
WEATHER BUREAU, TWO FORECASTERS
CHART A FAR-OFF STORM...

JEZEBEL COULD
GROW INTO A BAD
ONE, GENE! SHE'S
GOT THE MAKINGS!

IF WE'RE LUCKY,
LARRY--SHE'LL
VEER NORTH! BUT
IF SHE COMES
STRAIGHT ON--WOW!
IT WILL MEAN TROUBLE!



WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO SIT UP WITH
THIS ONE; GENE--MAYBE ALL NIGHT!
SHALL I CALL
YOUR WIFE?

YEAH! TELL HER... (SIGH)...
I'M STAYING UP ALL
NIGHT WITH JEZEBEL!





STRANGE ADVENTURES



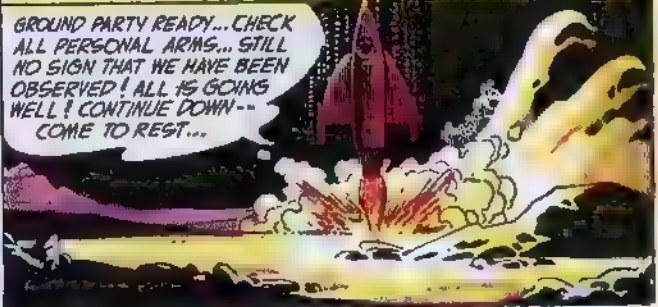
MEANWHILE... BESIDES JEZEBEL, SOMETHING ELSE IS HEADING FOR THE U.S. PACIFIC COAST AREA...

PREPARE TO OPEN FORWARD BRAKING JETG... ALL WEAPONS READY IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY... CONTROL KEEP ELECTRONIC SILENCE... CONTINUE DOWN!



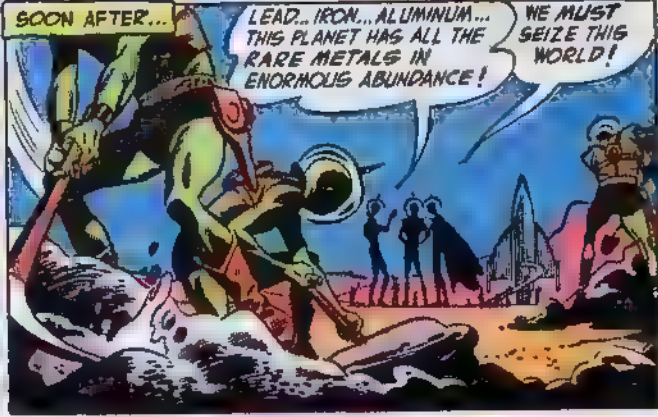
UNNOTICED IN THE DARKNESS, THE BATTLE ROCKET SLIPS DOWN AMONG THE GENTLY-ROLLING HILLS...

GROUND PARTY READY... CHECK ALL PERSONAL ARMS... STILL NO SIGN THAT WE HAVE BEEN OBSERVED! ALL IS GOING WELL! CONTINUE DOWN-- COME TO REST...

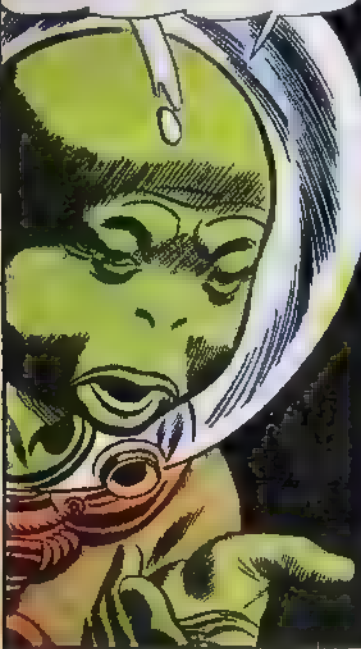


SOON AFTER...

LEAD... IRON... ALUMINUM... THIS PLANET HAS ALL THE RARE METALS IN ENORMOUS ABUNDANCE! WE MUST SEIZE THIS WORLD!



WE SHALL HAVE NO TROUBLE! THESE CREATURES HAVE NO FORCE-FIELD BARRIERS--AND ONLY PRIMITIVE ATOMIC WEAPONS! THEY CANNOT HURT US--BUT REMEMBER THAT BACK ON OUR OWN WORLD ACROSS THE GALAXY...

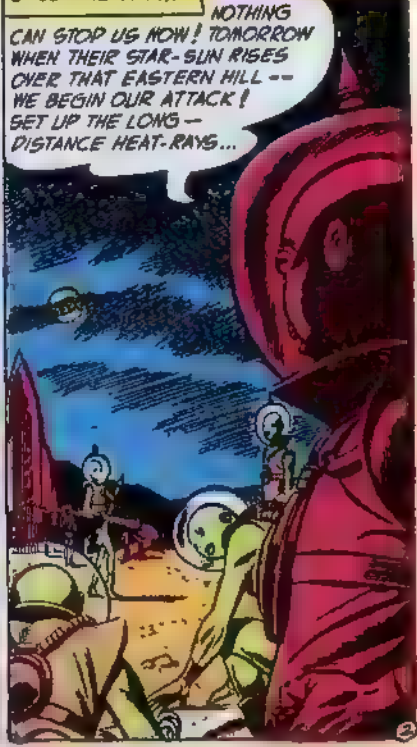


... WE HAVE NO OXYGEN--NO ATMOSPHERE AT ALL! THESE CREATURES BREATHE... BUT BREATHING COULD KILL US! THEREFORE, BE CERTAIN THAT YOUR HELMETS ARE AIRTIGHT-- CHECK THEM EVERY HOUR!



AS THE UNCANNY AND ALIEN INTRUDERS MAKE CAMP AND PREPARE FOR THE ONCOMING DAY...

NOTHING CAN STOP US NOW! TOMORROW WHEN THEIR STAR-SUN RISES OVER THAT EASTERN HILL -- WE BEGIN OUR ATTACK! SET UP THE LONG-- DISTANCE HEAT-RAYS...





STRANGE ADVENTURES



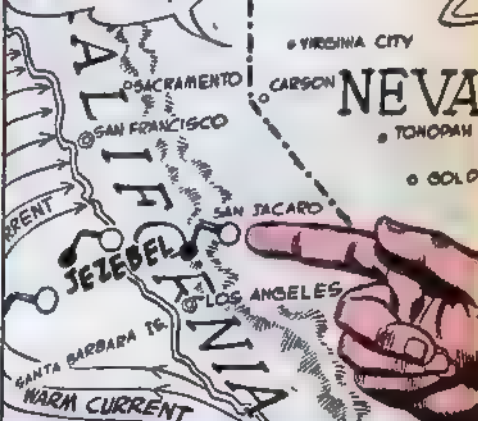
5:30 A.M. THAT NIGHT... IN THE WEATHER BUREAU OFFICE...

OUR LUCK RAN OUT, GENE! HERE COMES JEZEBEL STRAIGHT AT US--AND SHE'S A RIP-SNORTER...

BETTER GET OUT TORNADO WARNINGS RIGHT AWAY, LARRY...

CONDITIONS ARE JUST RIGHT FOR A TWISTER HERE IN THE SAN JACARO HILL REGION!

BOSH! THAT'S WHERE YOU LIVE, GENE!



YEAH... BUT I'M NOT WORRIED! I MEAN A TORNADO HARDLY COVERS MORE THAN AN AREA 300 YARDS WIDE! THE CHANCES ARE HEAVY AGAINST IT HITTING ANYTHING! MY WIFE AND KID'LL BE ALL RIGHT...

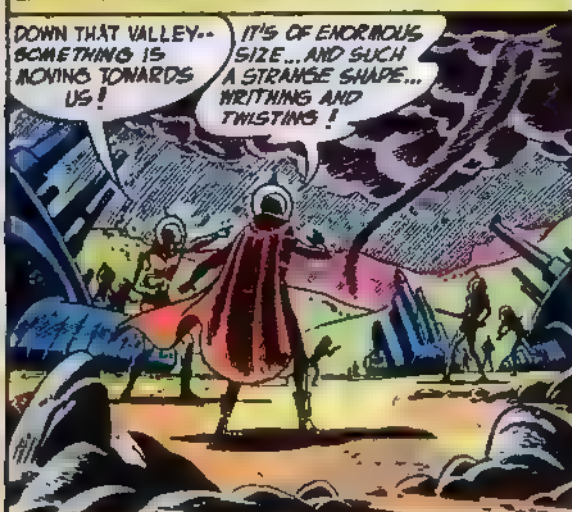
...I HOPE!

LATER... AFTER DAYLIGHT... IN THE SAN JACARO HILLS...

DOWN THAT VALLEY-- SOMETHING IS MOVING TOWARDS US!

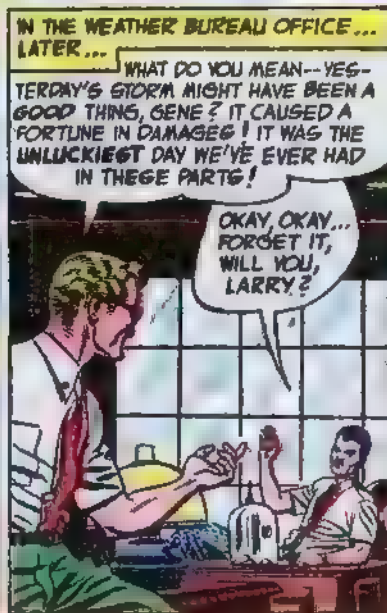
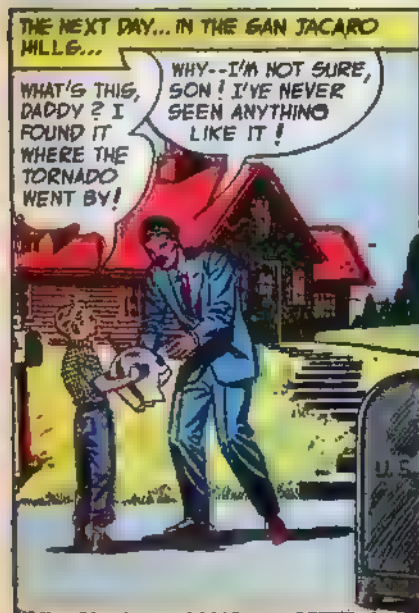
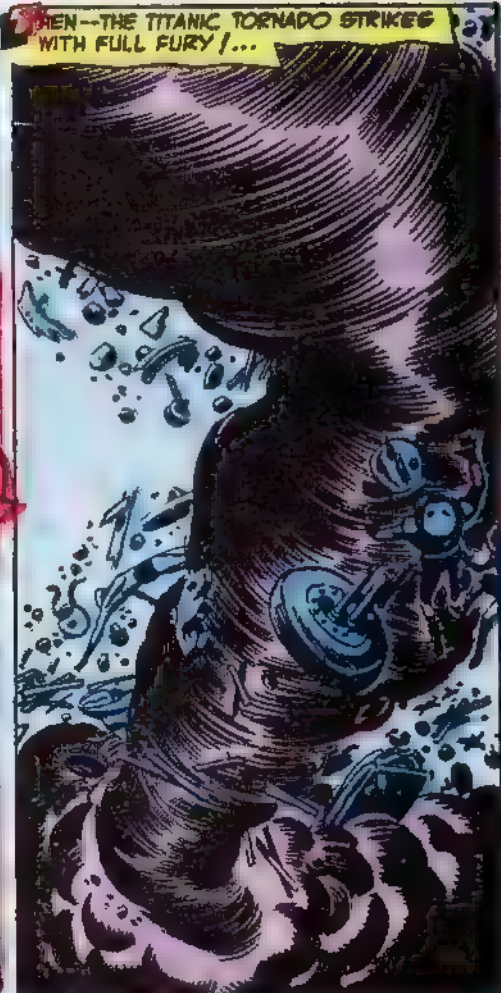
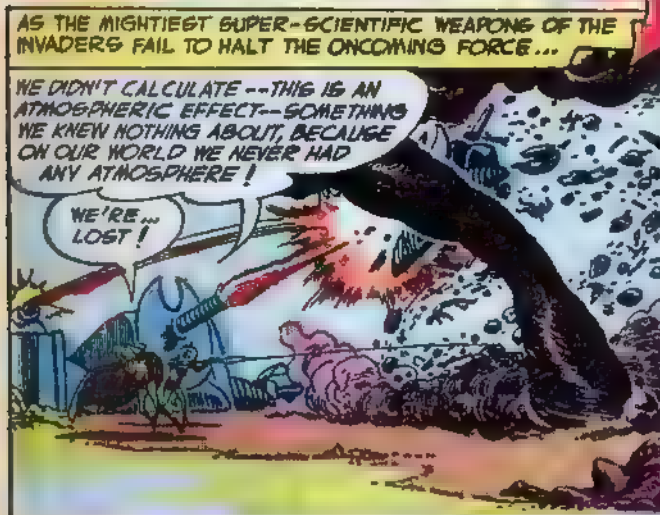
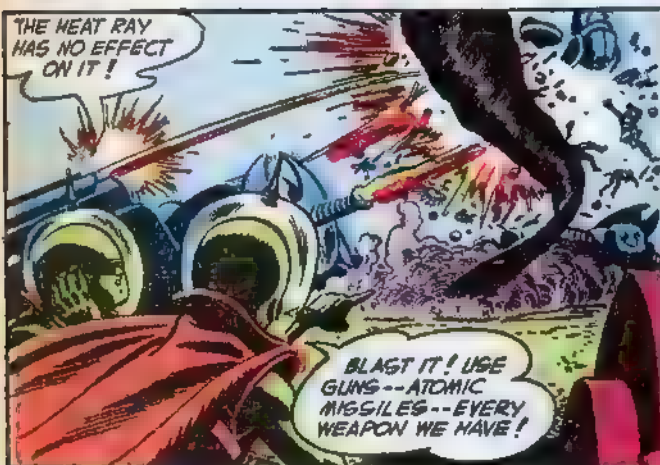
IT'S OF ENORMOUS SIZE... AND SUCH A STRANGE SHAPE... WRITHING AND TWISTING!

TAKE NO CHANCES! USE THE HEAT-EJECTOR! A BLAST OF ONE-MILLION-DEGREE HEAT SHOULD DESTROY THAT... THING -- WHATEVER IT IS!

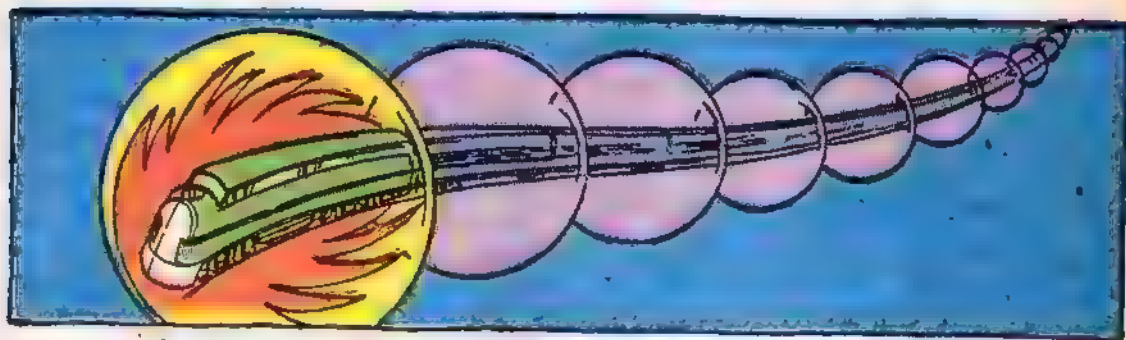




STRANGE ADVENTURES



SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE



THE EARTH AS SEEN FROM SPACE!

AS the space traveler rockets off the earth for the first time, he will feel an irresistible urge to turn his head in the direction of his home planet and look at it from "above." His first glimpse is likely to be of white floccules of cumulus clouds seemingly glued to the ground. There will, of course, be wide stretches of ground in the desert belts round the tropics where clouds are rare and whose telescopic view may be similar to the red areas of Mars.

The oceans and forests will probably form the darkest portions of the terrestrial surface, dull blue in coloring. The grasslands and the cultivated fields may appear as a pale mildly green hue, but much of the land will look definitely red. There will seldom be an area more than 1000 square miles entirely free from mist or clouds, and everything will be visible through a blue atmospheric veil, like a mountain ten miles away, greatly hampering the observation of ground detail.

One of the most conspicuous features will be the snows of winter and the polar ice caps, which, however, will generally merge with the clouds. The region of equatorial rains will form a bright white belt shifting with the seasons, and the cyclonic storms of the moderate latitudes will appear as prominent white rounded patches with a north-easterly

trend in the northern hemisphere and a south-westerly in the southern hemisphere.

Thus it is apparent that the general telescopic appearance of the earth would fall somewhere between Mars and Venus, but would also bear a resemblance to Jupiter.

An observer on the moon would find the earth a fascinating, if rather tantalizing object to watch—for our planet will have the dense, cloudy appearance of Venus—screening the earth's surface from detailed observation. A Martian astronomer, looking sunward toward earth, would not be able to make out much of the surface detail either. A Venusian investigator, so far as the cloudiness of his skies permits, would be placed somewhat better, but not nearly so well as we are with regard to the nearly cloudless Mars.

Periods of rotation obtained from the observations of cloud detail at different latitudes would vary by several hours, and some Martian scientists might be led to doubt if the earth had any solid surface at all. Their spectroscopes might fail to disclose the presence of water, for most of the earthlight would be coming from the clouds and atmospheric gases and there is no water vapor above five miles, while the cloudless regions would generally be dry, mainly deserts. Thus a Martian astrophysicist might conclude that terrestrial clouds are composed of *formaldehyde*.

He would probably be able to see the bottom of the shallower seas and be tempted to deny their watery character.

Larger cities and volcanoes would appear as faint glowing spots on the night hemisphere of the earth, but of human activity instruments similar to ours would show no trace at all.

All of this has been pure speculation, of course, but V. A. Firsoff, gathering all available astronomical clues, has played the role of "space detective" to ferret out the secrets of our solar system in his book, "Our Neighbour Worlds" (Philosophical Library, New York), from which every space-minded fan will reap a harvest of worthwhile information.

THE LIVING AND THE DEAD!

Most of the atoms of which all substances are composed are dead, passive, unchanging things, able to do nothing on their own but stay put. In technical language, they are *inert*. The chair you sit in is inert; the ground you walk on is inert; the air you breathe is inert; the atoms composing a moving plane, or automobile are inert. Almost everything is inert ... with the exception of *radioactive substances*.

Radioactive substances are very much alive—alive in much the same way that a railway engine is "alive" and the coaches behind it are "dead" and inert. They are always giving off light and heat rays and at the same time changing into other substances.

The changing of one substance into another is nothing more than the transmutation of the elements dreamed of and sought after in vain by the alchemists of bygone centuries. Yet radium and its family of radioactive substances do it daily as a mere matter of routine. However, whereas alchemists dreamed of turning base metals into precious ores like gold, radioactive transmutation goes in the reverse direction from precious to base. For this reason it is sometimes spoken of as radioactive decay,

and the final end of the decaying process is just *lead*—the cheap, common base metal lead. And lead, of course, is not radioactive; it is just another ordinary inert substance.

Three different kinds of rays are emitted by radioactive elements—alpha, beta, and gamma rays. The first two consist of minute material products, streams of them, while the third kind is radiation proper, electric waves pure and simple. The alpha particle is the nucleus of the helium atom. A beta particle is a fast-moving electron.

After it has shot off three alpha particles and a few rays, an atom of uranium becomes an atom of radium. It is as if Mother Nature turned magician, putting uranium in her hat and pulling out the rabbit radium in its place.

The radium in turn fires off five alpha particles and turns into an atom of lead; the rare and costly radium has vanished and turned into the base metal lead. Like Humpty-Dumpty, radium has had a great fall and nothing on earth can restore it to its former shape.

The manner of radium's dying is so extraordinary that it is usual to talk, not about its lifetime, but its *half-lifetime*. The half-lifetime period of radium is 1600 years.

The nearer radium is to death the longer it takes to die. If you have a piece of radium, it doesn't matter how big or little, half of it will decay and disappear in 1600 years. If it weighs, for example, one ounce, there will remain only half an ounce in 1600 years; 1/4 ounce in the next 1600 years; 1/8 ounce in 1600 years more; and so on till the original ounce has completely disappeared.

Theoretically, radium lives forever. Half of all the radium in the earth today will have vanished in 1600 more years; yet there will be just as much then as there is now, for fresh supplies are always being produced by its mother metal, uranium.

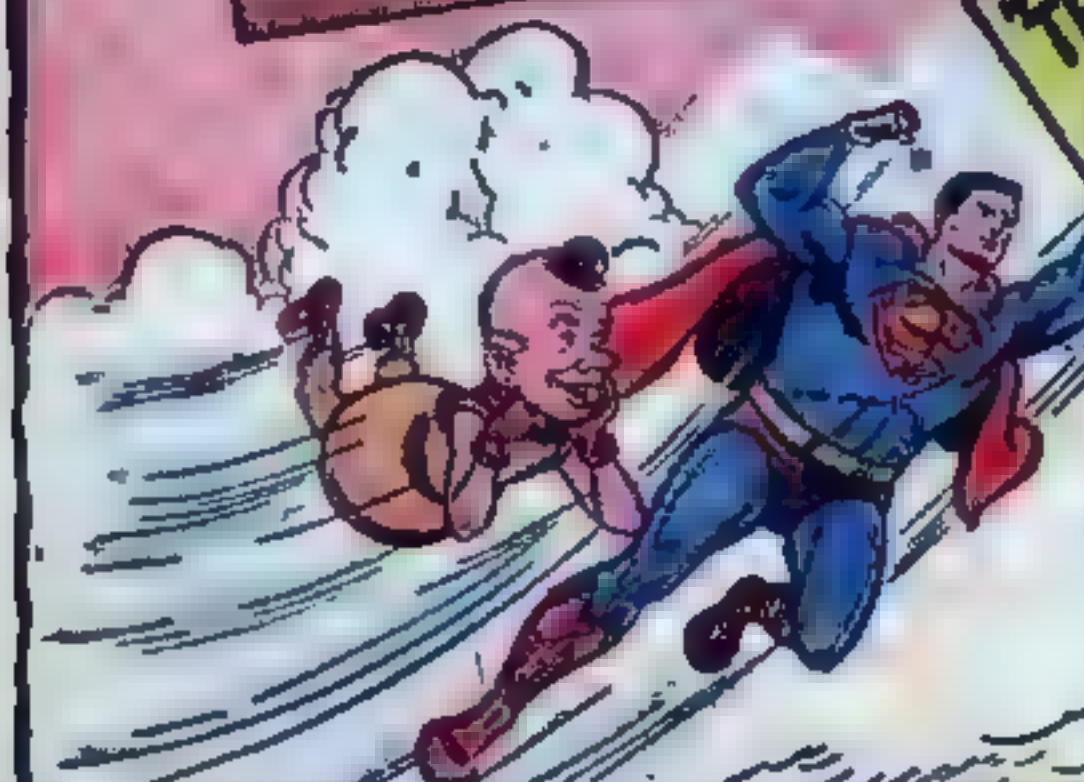
THREE SMASHING ADVENTURES of SUPERMAN



"The DRAGON from KING ARTHUR'S COURT!"

"JIMMY OLSEN, EDITOR!"

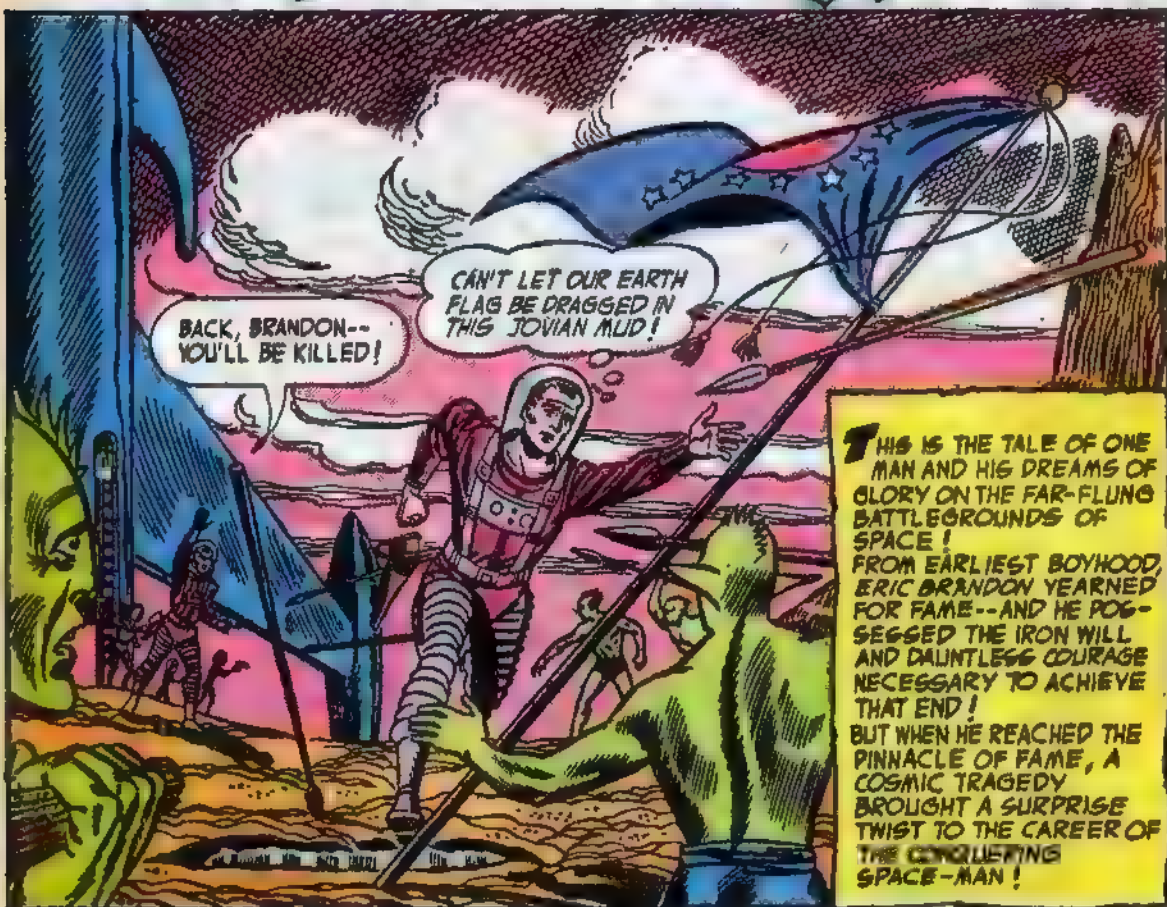
"The MISCHIEVOUS MR. MXYZTPLK!"



NOW ON SALE at your Favorite Newsstand!



the RETURN of the CONQUEROR



THIS IS THE TALE OF ONE MAN AND HIS DREAMS OF GLORY ON THE FAR-FLUNG BATTLEFIELDS OF SPACE! FROM EARLIEST BOYHOOD, ERIC BRANDON YEARNED FOR FAME--AND HE POSSESSED THE IRON WILL AND DAUNTLESS COURAGE NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE THAT END! BUT WHEN HE REACHED THE PINNACLE OF FAME, A COSMIC TRAGEDY BROUGHT A SURPRISE TWIST TO THE CAREER OF THE CONQUERING SPACE-MAN!

IN THE 31ST CENTURY, THE GARRULOUS OLD GATE-KEEPER OF A FAMOUS MONUMENT SEIZES AN OPPORTUNITY...

GIR, YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING AT THIS MONUMENT FOR A LONG TIME! PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO HEAR ME TELL YOU THE STORY BEHIND IT--NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW THE REAL STORY...

STORY?

EARTH'S HERO

OH, YES, SIR! IT IS A FASCINATING TALE--AND I NEVER WEARY OF TELLING IT! IT ALL BEGAN--





STRANGE ADVENTURES

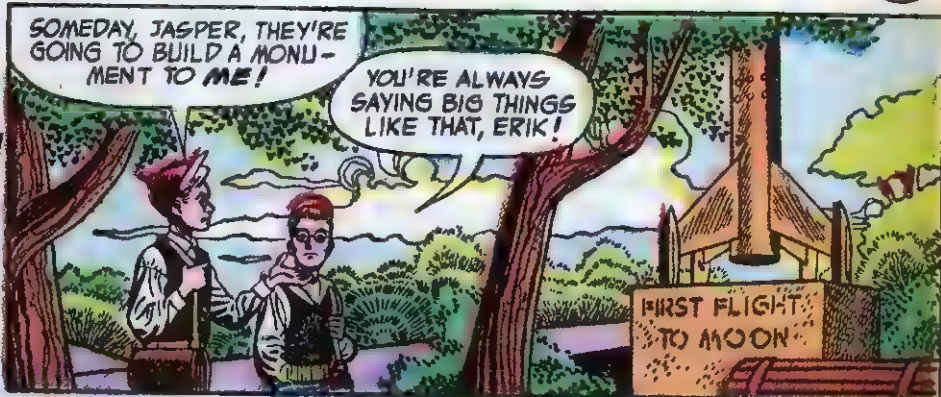


...WHEN ERIK BRANDON AND HIS BROTHER JASPER WERE SMALL BOYS HERE IN THIS CITY! ERIK, THE ELDER, WAS AMBITIOUS EVEN THEN...



SOMEDAY, JASPER, THEY'RE GOING TO BUILD A MONUMENT TO ME!

YOU'RE ALWAYS SAYING BIG THINGS LIKE THAT, ERIK!



BUT AS THE YEARS WENT BY, ERIK'S BOYHOOD DREAM OF FAME AND GLORY GREW STRONGER. INSTEAD OF FADING AS EVERYONE EXPECTED...

CONGRATULATIONS, ERIC BRANDON! YOU HAVE WON AN APPOINTMENT TO SPACE ACADEMY!

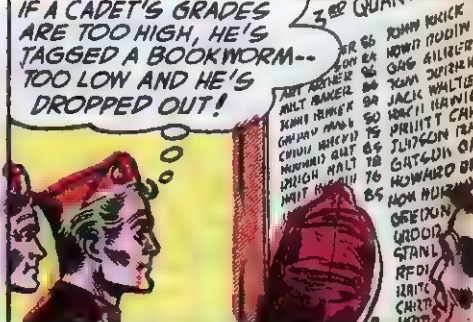
I'VE MADE IT! THE FIRST STEP...



IN SPACE ACADEMY, ERIK'S GRADES WERE NOT UNUSUAL! HE COULD HAVE DONE BETTER-- BUT HE DIDN'T ON PURPOSE...

IF A CADET'S GRADES ARE TOO HIGH, HE'S TAGGED A BOOKWORM-- TOO LOW AND HE'S DROPPED OUT!

3RD QUARTER



AFTER GRADUATION, ERIK WAS CHOSEN FOR A HAZARDOUS MISSION...

YOU'VE BEEN SELECTED FOR THE JUPITER-VOYAGE, BRANDON!

AN EXPEDITION TO UNKNOWN JUPITER! I WOULDN'T MISS THIS FOR THE WORLD--FOR ALL THE WORLDS!



DOZENS OF OUR SPACE FORCE WERE LOST IN THAT FIRST JUPITER LANDING! THE RESISTANCE WAS FIERCE...

THE JUPES ARE STILL COMING AT US, COLONEL!

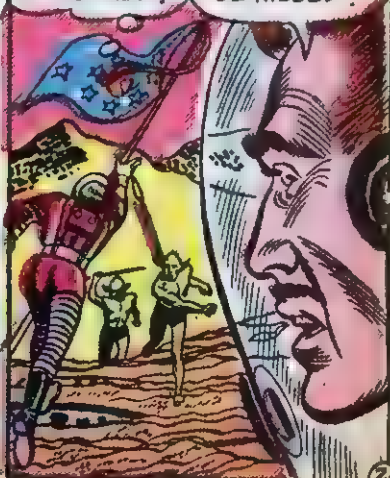
BUT THEY WON'T DRIVE US OFF, BRANDON-- THEIR WEAPONS CAN'T MATCH OURS!



THEN OCCURRED AN INCIDENT THAT WAS CHARACTERISTIC OF ERIC BRANDON--WITH HIS FLARING, DRAMATIC COURAGE...

OUR EARTH FLAG--FALLING! CAN'T LET IT BE DRAGGED IN THE MUD!

DON'T EXPOSE YOURSELF, BRANDON! BACK--YOU'LL BE KILLED!



"BUT BRANDON WASN'T KILLED! AUTOMATIC CAMERAS ON THE ROCKETSHIP RECORDED THE BATTLE--AND LATER, BACK HOME, ONE SIGHT IN PARTICULAR CAUGHT THE PUBLIC FANCY..."

WHAT A TERRIFIC PICTURE OF A SPACE FORCE LIEUTENANT SETTING OUR EARTH FLAG UPRIGHT!

THEY SAY HIS NAME IS BRANDON-- LIEUTENANT BRANDON!

ERIC BRANDON--THE HERO OF JUPITER-- COMES FROM OUR HOME TOWN!

MY BROTHER ERIK... ALWAYS TOLD ME HE'D BE A HERO...

"THAT ONE ACT MADE ERIK'S REPUTATION! SEVEN YEARS LATER, HE BECAME A SPACE FORCE GENERAL--THE YOUNGEST ON RECORD..."

GIVE ME A FLEET OF FOUR BATTLE-ROCKETS, SIR--AND I'LL OPEN UP URANUS TO COLONIZATION BY EARTHMEN!

HOW HARD BRANDON GOES AFTER ANYTHING HE WANTS!

"GENERAL ERIK BRANDON GOT HIS FOUR BATTLE-ROCKETS--AND NOT LONG AFTER ON THE ALIEN, PURPLE, SOIL OF URANUS..."

FOLLOW ME MEN! WE'LL ROUT THEM!

HE'S ABSOLUTELY FEARLESS--THERE'S NEVER BEEN ANOTHER MAN LIKE HIM!

"BUT URANUS WAS TOUGH! IT TOOK MONTHS BEFORE ERIK COULD SAY..."

I TAKE POSSESSION OF THIS PLANET--AND ALL ITS SATELLITES-- IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNMENT OF EARTH!

"URANUS ONLY WHETTED ERIK'S APPETITE! HE RETURNED TO EARTH--AND BEFORE THAT YEAR WAS OVER..."

IT'S GENERAL BRANDON AND HIS FLEET OF EIGHT BATTLE-ROCKETS--ON THEIR WAY TO CONQUER NEPTUNE!

NEPTUNE WON'T STOP BRANDON! NOTHING CAN STOP HIM!



STRANGE ADVENTURES



"BUT ON NEPTUNE, BRANDON RAN INTO SERIOUS TROUBLE! FOR THE NEPTUNES-- UNKNOWN TO OUR INTELLIGENCE-- POSSESSED BATTLEROCKETS TOO-- PLENTY OF THEM..."

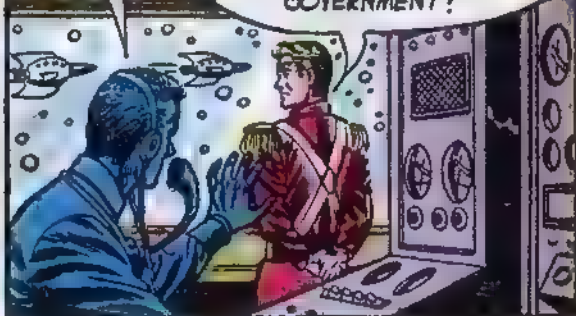
"ANOTHER OF OUR SHIPS DESTROYED, GENERAL BRANDON! SHALL I GIVE THE SIGNAL TO WITHDRAW, SIR?"

"NO! GIVE THE SIGNAL TO ATTACK! ATTACK!"

"INCREDIBLY, BRANDON'S AUDACITY WON THE DAY! FOR SOON AFTER, IT WAS THE NEPTUNIAN FLEET THAT STRUCK ITS COLORS..."

GENERAL, THEY'RE SURRENDERING!

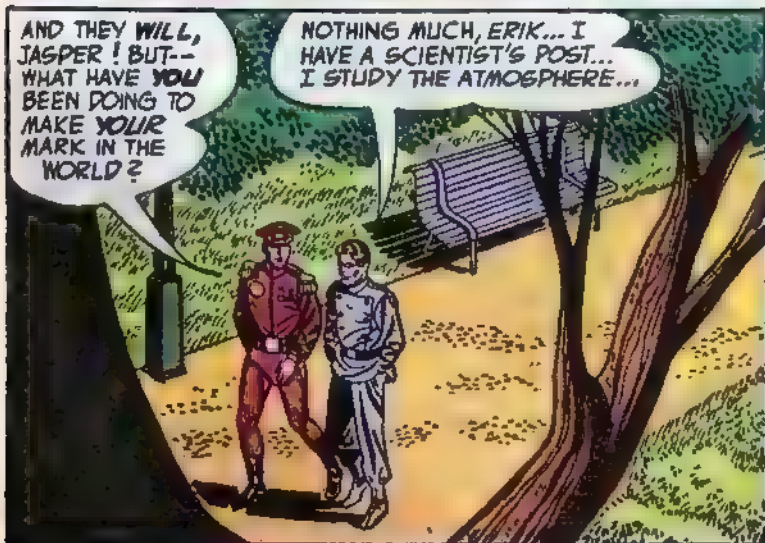
HAVE THEM LAND THEIR ROCKETS AT ONCE! AND INFORM THEM THAT I HEREBY TAKE POSSESSION OF NEPTUNE IN THE NAME OF THE EARTH GOVERNMENT!



"DURING THE NEXT YEAR, ERIK BRANDON PAID A FLYING VISIT TO HIS HOME-- WHERE HE HELD A BRIEF REUNION WITH HIS BROTHER JASPER..."

YOU REMEMBER, JASPER-- HOW I VOWED LONG AGO THAT ONE DAY THEY WOULD BUILD A STATUE TO ME?

YES-- I REMEMBER, ERIK...



AND THEY WILL, JASPER! BUT-- WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING TO MAKE YOUR MARK IN THE WORLD?

NOTHING MUCH, ERIK... I HAVE A SCIENTIST'S POST... I STUDY THE ATMOSPHERE...

THE ATMOSPHERE!! HOW CAN YOU POSSIBLY BECOME FAMOUS STUDYING THE ATMOSPHERE?

I GUESS... I'M JUST NOT CUT OUT TO BE FAMOUS-- LIKE YOU, ERIK...





STRANGE ADVENTURES



"SOON AFTER...AG GENERAL BRANDON AND A FLEET OF 24 BATTLEROCKETS HEADED OUT TOWARD THE OUTER-MOST PLANET, PLUTO..."

THERE GOES ERIK AGAIN! HIS VISIT HERE WAS SO SHORT-- I NEVER DID HAVE A CHANCE TO DISCUSS WITH HIM THE SPECIAL ATMOSPHERIC PROBLEM THAT HAS PUZZLED ME...



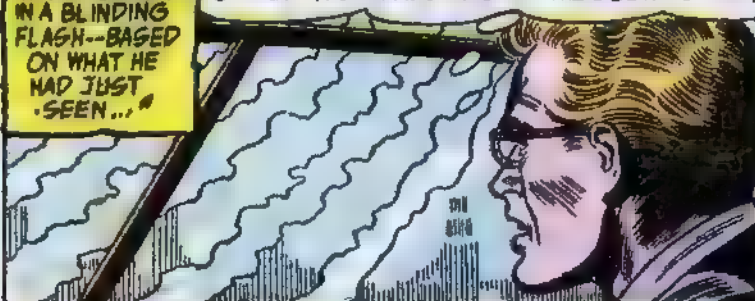
"WHAT WAS BOTHERING JASPER WAS A STRANGE ALTERATION IN THE OZONE BLANKET THAT SURROUNDS EARTH 12 TO 30 MILES UP..."



THE OZONE LAYER FILTERS OUT THE DANGEROUS ULTRA-VIOLET RADIATION FROM THE SUN--WHICH OTHERWISE MIGHT DESTROY LIFE ON EARTH! MY RESEARCH INDICATES THAT HOLES ARE BEGINNING TO APPEAR IN THAT LAYER! BUT--WHAT COULD BE CAUSING THEM?

"THE STAGGERING ANSWER CAME TO JASPER BRANDON IN A BLINDING FLASH--BASED ON WHAT HE HAD JUST SEEN..."

ERIK AND HIS BATTLEROCKETS! THE HUNDREDS OF BATTLEROCKETS HE'S TAKEN OFF INTO SPACE! THEIR ATOMIC DISCHARGE IS WHAT HAS CAUSED THE WEAKENING OF THE OZONE LAYER!



"SOON AFTER, A MYSTERIOUS MALADY STRUCK THE EARTH..."

MY FINGERS-- I'VE SUDDENLY LOST POWER OVER THEM!

IT'S THE EFFECT OF THE INTENSE ULTRA-VIOLET RAYS-- PASSING THROUGH THE BROKEN OZONE LAYER!



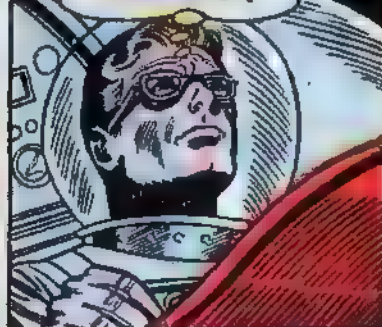
"THE STRANGE PARALYSIS SPREAD SWIFTLY--BUT JASPER HAD ALREADY WORKED OUT A PLAN OF ACTION..."

I MAY BE STRUCK BY THE PARALYSIS AT ANY MOMENT! BUT BEFORE THAT HAPPENS, I MUST GET THIS SHIP UP INTO THE OZONE LAYER!



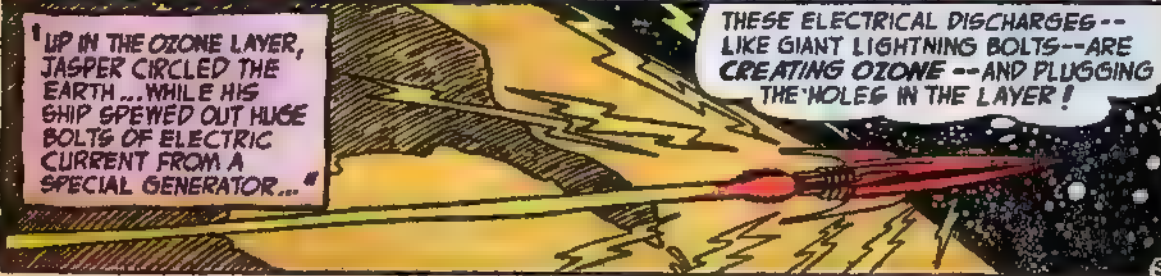
"JASPER'S SHIP, ASSIGNED TO HIM FOR ATMOSPHERIC STUDY BY THE SCIENCE FEDERATION-- SPED SKYWARD..."

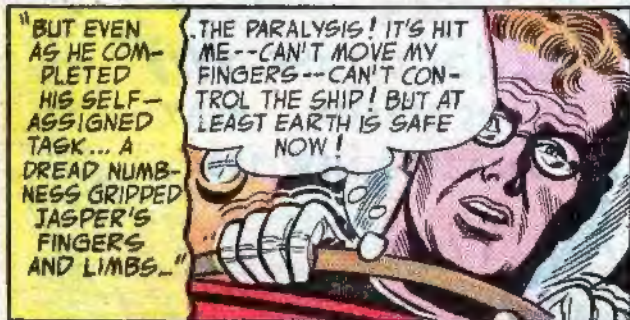
UNLESS MY PLAN SUCCEEDS, ALL LIFE ON EARTH WILL BE DESTROYED IN A FEW DAYS!



"UP IN THE OZONE LAYER, JASPER CIRCLED THE EARTH...WHILE HIS SHIP SPEWED OUT HUGE BOLTS OF ELECTRIC CURRENT FROM A SPECIAL GENERATOR..."

THESE ELECTRICAL DISCHARGES-- LIKE GIANT LIGHTNING BOLTS--ARE CREATING OZONE --AND PLUGGING THE HOLES IN THE LAYER!





"BUT EVEN AS HE COMPLETED HIS SELF-ASSIGNED TASK... A DREAD NUMBNESS GRIPPED JASPER'S FINGERS AND LIMBS..."

"LIKE A FALLING METEOR, THE DOOMED SHIP AND ITS HELPLESS PILOT PLUNGED EARTHWARD... FASTER, FASTER..."



"IT WAS ONLY BY AN EXAMINATION OF THE WRECKAGE THAT MEN LEARNED WHAT JASPER HAD DONE-- AND HONORED HIM FOR IT!"



THE END

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OF SHAPELY POWER-PACKED
MUSCLES!

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6 inches to each **ARM** and
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